

MINUTES  
TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE  
SPECIAL MAGISTRATE/COMMUNITY STANDARDS HEARING  
APRIL 5, 2022

Present: Special Magistrate Amity Barnard, Town Attorney Christy Goddeau, Town Manager Tracey Stevens, Town Clerk Karla Armstrong, Building Official Durrani Guy, and Community Standards Officer Robert McAllister.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Special Magistrate Barnard.

Special Magistrate Barnard explained the hearing process, noting that the Town will call cases as they appear on the agenda. Once the case is called, the Town will present evidence first, then the Respondent will have the opportunity to see the evidence, ask any questions, and then the Respondent will provide testimony and evidence. Once all of the evidence and testimony has been concluded, the Special Magistrate will make a ruling, and the Town and Respondent will receive the written order in the mail within the next few days. This is not meant to be a formal courtroom and formal rules of evidence do not apply.

All those persons planning to provide testimony were sworn in by Special Magistrate Barnard.

**A. ADOPTION OF APRIL 5, 2022 MINUTES**

The Community Standards Hearing Minutes of February 15, 2022 were adopted as submitted by Special Magistrate Barnard.

**B. FINE REDUCTION REQUEST HEARING**

**CASE NO. 2021-008**

**ALBERT & PATRICIA THROWER, ALBERT &  
PATRICIA THROWER TR TITL HLDERS  
8 INLET CAY DRIVE, OCEAN RIDGE, FL 33435  
RE: INLET CAY, LT 8**

**NATURE OF VIOLATION**

Violate Section(s) 64-77 by Failure to Obtain Permit for  
Installation of Floating Dock.

Town Attorney Goddeau summarized the case for Special Magistrate Barnard.

The Respondent, Patricia Thrower, discussed the history of events that transpired, including possible miscommunication, lack of knowledge of permit requirement, variance requirement, permit history, and COVID. She requested to reduce the fine to \$0.

Special Magistrate Barnard asked for the date of compliance and was informed it was February 4, 2022. She further noted that the respondent should have attended the violation hearing to ask questions and gather information on how to come into compliance. Mrs. Thrower stated that her family was away for the summer, and the variance kept being deferred. Town Clerk Armstrong explained the history of the variance application by noting that the hearing date was chosen based on the applicant's availability.

Town Attorney Goddeau noted that the request was to remove the floating dock from the previous location when it was in the setback. Building Official Guy discussed the actions that he has taken to explain and provide the respondent with the information required. He noted that the respondents had other locations of where to put it. He further offered the Town Hall's timeline. Mrs. Thrower corrected information regarding her second platform and her neighbor's. She further advised that the previous location was the best for the floating dock. Additionally, she reiterated that the word "remove" was used rather than "move."

Town Attorney Goddeau discussed the violation and the severity of the violation. She stated that the Town does not take a position on reducing the fine and does not oppose slightly reducing the fine.

Special Magistrate Barnard recalled the case and the ongoing issue with the neighbor regarding the floating dock. She reiterated that the respondent should have attended the violation hearing and that it shows the Town has been working with the respondent. Mrs. Thrower explained her conversations with the neighbors, and she noted that the neighbors never mentioned their issues with the floating dock. Building Official Guy clarified that he received the complaint from their neighbor at 7 Inlet Cay specifically about 8 Inlet Cay. Special Magistrate Barnard recommended to the respondents to attend any violation in the future.

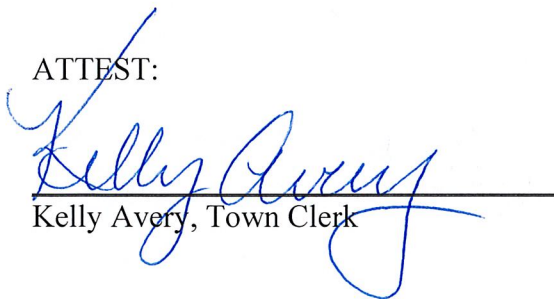
Special Magistrate Barnard ordered that the penalty amount previously imposed be reduced from \$5,900.00 to \$3,000.00. The Respondents are hereby ordered to pay this mitigated fine amount within thirty (30) days of the date of this order (on or before May 5, 2022), or the original penalty amount of \$5,900.00 will automatically be reinstated as a penalty. Administrative costs for the previous hearings have been timely paid to the Town by the Respondents.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

The hearing was adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

Minutes prepared by Town Clerk Armstrong and adopted by Special Magistrate Barnard on October 4, 2022.

ATTEST:

  
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Kelly Avery, Town Clerk